

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-39 are pending, with claims 1, 25 and 38 being independent. Claims 1, 25 and 38 have been amended. Support for the amendment may be found in the application at, for example, page 6, lines 6-27 and Fig. 3. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14, 16, 17, 22-25, 27-29, 31-33, 37-39 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,979,709 ("Healey"). Dependent claim 5 has been rejected as obvious over Healey in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,349,803 ("Tobin"). Claims 12, 13, and 26 have been rejected as obvious over Healey in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,028,656 ("Schmunk"). Claim 15 has been rejected as obvious over Healey in view of Schmunk and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,261,980 ("Pearce"). Claims 18-21, 30, and 34-36 have been rejected as obvious over Healey.

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections for the reasons noted in the appeal brief that was previously filed. Applicant notes further that, in the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner addressed the arguments from the appeal brief by arguing that the claims did not require the "pre-formed tubular support structure" to be formed before the reinforcing structure is formed. While applicant does not concur with the Examiner's view, applicant has, in the interest of expediting prosecution, amended the claims to more explicitly recite that the reinforcing structure is formed over the pre-formed tubular support structure after the pre-formed tubular support structure is formed (claims 1 and 38), and that the reinforcing structure is applied over the pre-formed tubular support structure after surrounding at least a portion of the electrical assembly by the pre-formed tubular support structure (claim 25).

In view of this amendment, applicant submits that the rejections should be withdrawn and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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